

Firearm Registrations in Hawaii, 2012

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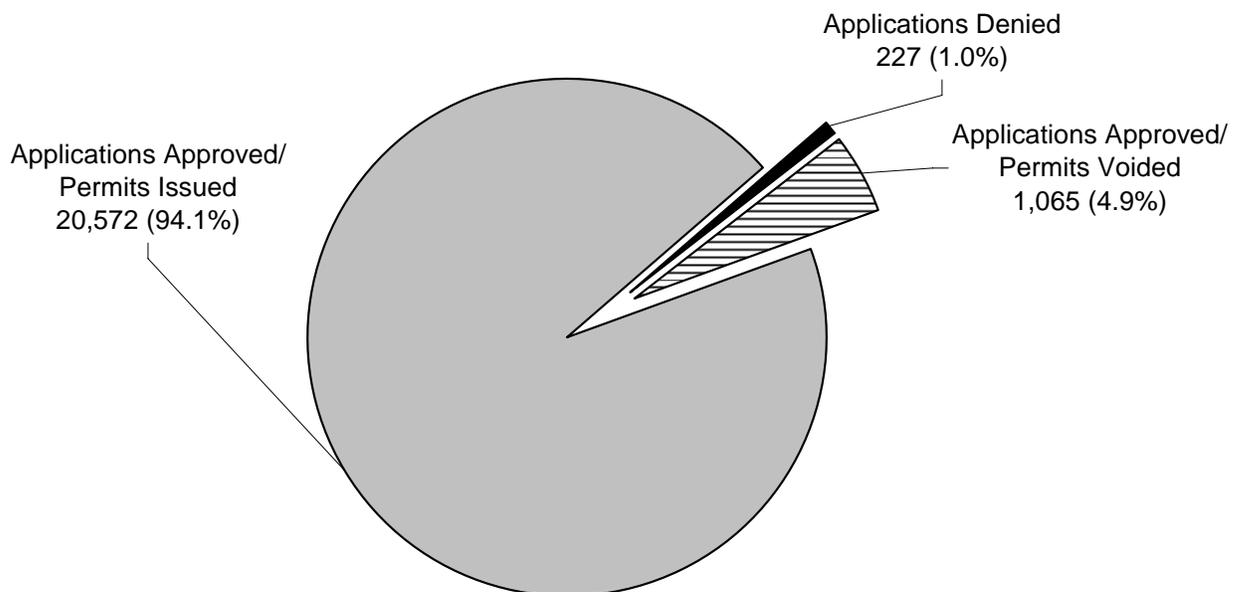
Hawaii Revised Statutes §134-14 requires the county police departments to provide to the Department of the Attorney General a monthly report of firearm registration activity. The data from these reports were compiled in order to provide the statistics presented herein for Calendar Year 2012. This is the thirteenth annual publication of *Firearm Registrations in Hawaii*. Given very large increases in statewide registration activity during the past several years, and in particular during 2012, several new figures and analyses were added to this year's edition of the report (see pages 5-8).

Permit Applications Processed, Issued, Voided, and Denied

A record high total of 21,864 personal/private firearm permit applications were processed statewide during 2012, marking a major, 42.2% increase from the previous record high of 15,375 applications processed in 2011. Of the applications processed in 2012, 94.1% were approved and resulted in issued permits; 4.9% were approved but subsequently voided after the applicants failed to return for their permits within the specified time period; and 1.0% were denied due to one or more disqualifying factors. Figure 1 reveals additional information. Denials are described in greater detail throughout this report.

**Figure 1: Firearm Permit Application Outcomes,
State of Hawaii, 2012**

(N = 21,864 Total Applications Processed)



Registrations and Importations

The 20,572 permits issued statewide in 2012 cover a record high total of 50,394 firearms registered, marking a 36.9% increase from the previous record high of 36,804 firearms registered in 2011. Nearly half (23,548, or 46.7%) of the firearms registered during 2012 were imported from out-of-state, with the remainder (26,846, or 53.3%) accounted for by transfers of firearms that were previously registered in Hawaii. Although there is no way to track the number of firearms that permanently leave the state, independent estimates made during the late-1990s by the Department of the Attorney General and the City & County of Honolulu Police Department placed the total number of privately owned firearms in Hawaii at roughly one million.

Permits and Registrations, by Firearm Type

In the State of Hawaii, annual permits are issued in order to acquire an unlimited number of longarms (rifles and shotguns), while one-time permits are issued to acquire specific handguns. By firearm type, 53.9% (11,079) of the 20,572 total permits issued during 2012 were to acquire longarms, while 46.1% (9,493) were handgun permits. The tally of handgun permits is perennially confounded, however, as some of the county police departments issue a single permit listing all handguns that will be acquired simultaneously from the same source (i.e., one permit per transaction, per Hawaii Revised Statutes section 134-2(e)), while the other departments issue one permit per handgun even if they are acquired in the same transaction.

Longarms accounted for 61.3% (30,911) of all firearms registered in 2012 (50,394). Broken out further, rifles and shotguns comprised 48.6% (24,469) and 12.8% (6,442) of total registrations, respectively. The remaining 38.7% (19,483) of registered firearms were handguns.

County Comparisons and Registration Trends

Table 1 shows the distribution of firearm registration activity during 2012 across the four counties and for the State of Hawaii overall.

Table 1: Firearm Registration Activity, State of Hawaii and Counties, 2012

	C&C of Honolulu	Hawaii County	Maui County	Kauai County	State Total
Applications Processed	13,927	3,881	2,777	1,279	21,864
Applications Approved/ Permits Issued	13,052	3,715	2,640	1,165	20,572
Applications Approved/ Permits Voided	821	50	91	55	1,065
Applications Denied	54	116	46	11	227
Denial Rate	0.4%	3.0%	1.7%	0.9%	1.0%
Firearms Registered	30,289	10,134	6,791	2,679	50,394
Firearms Imported	13,900	5,272	3,124	1,252	23,548

As compared to Hawaii's resident population distribution, firearm registration activity occurred disproportionately across the four counties during 2012 (see Figure 2). (If the counties' registration activity occurred in equal proportion to their respective population sizes, then the three bars depicted for each county in Figure 2 would be of equal height and value.)

Based on its population size, 9% fewer permit applications were processed in the City & County of Honolulu during 2012 than would be expected, and 65% fewer denials were reported. Hawaii County recorded 29% more processed applications and 264% more denials than expected. Maui County processed 18% more applications and denied 82% more applications than anticipated. Kauai County processed and denied permit applications at rates that are roughly commensurate with its share of the State's resident population.

Figure 2: County Distribution of Permit Applications Processed and Rejected versus Resident Population Distribution, 2012

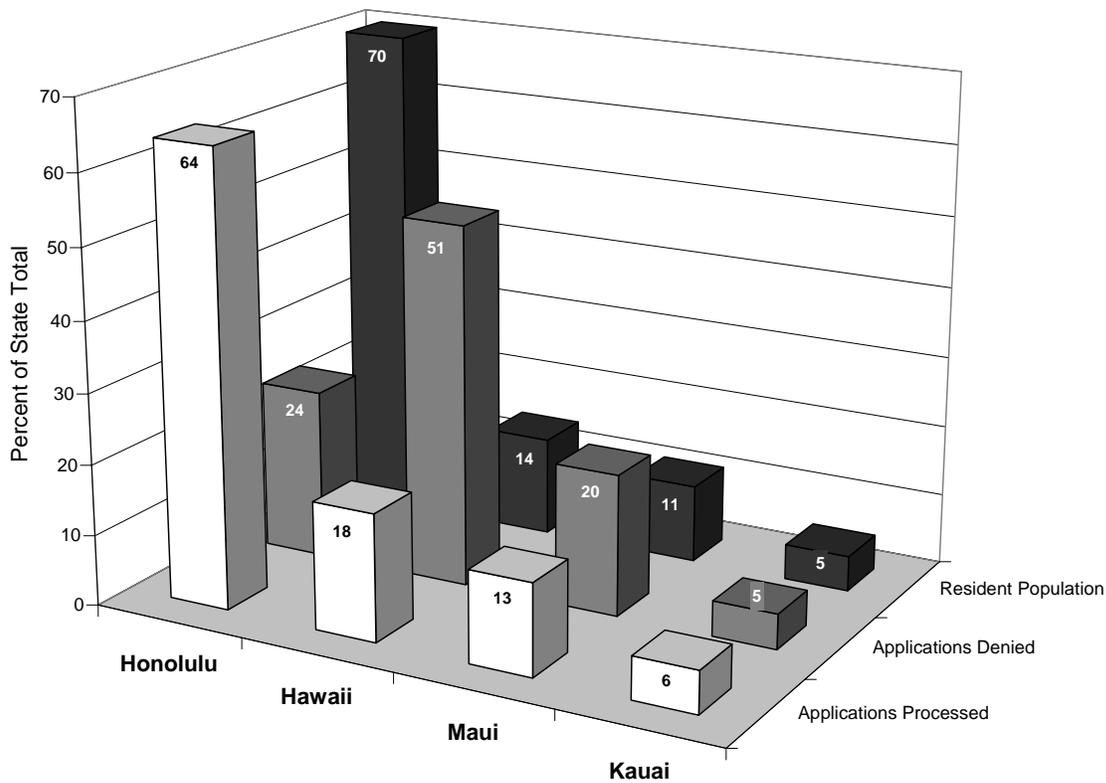
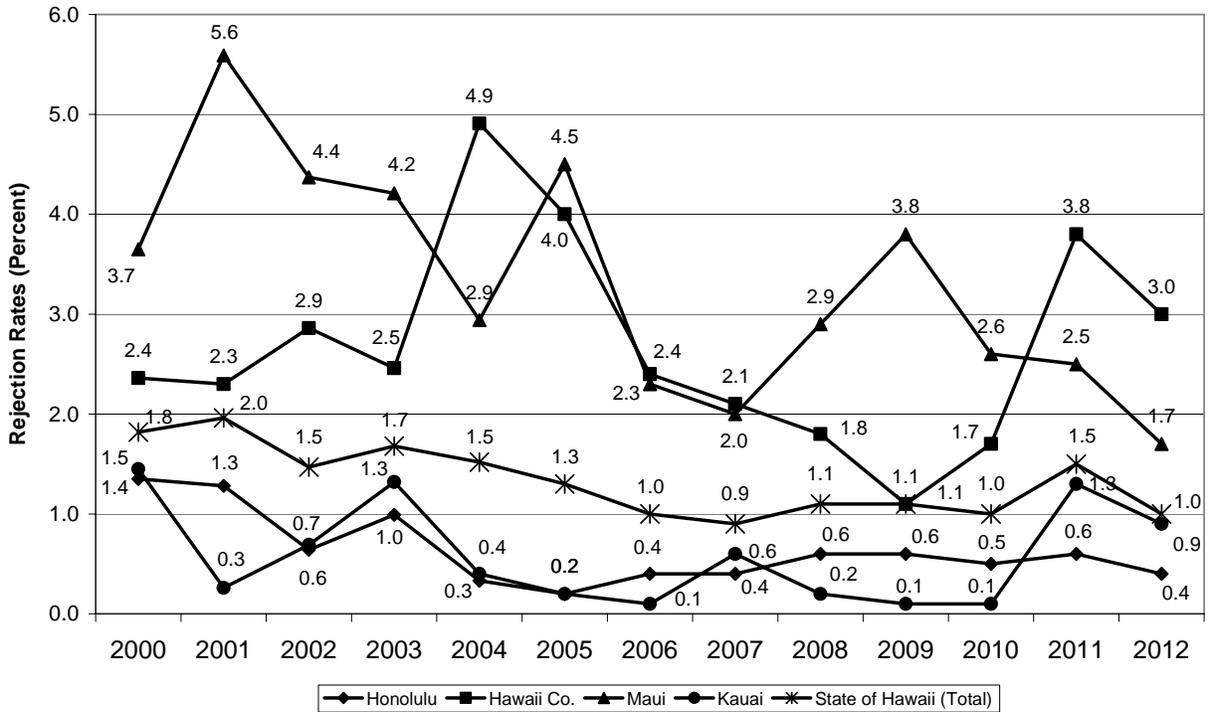


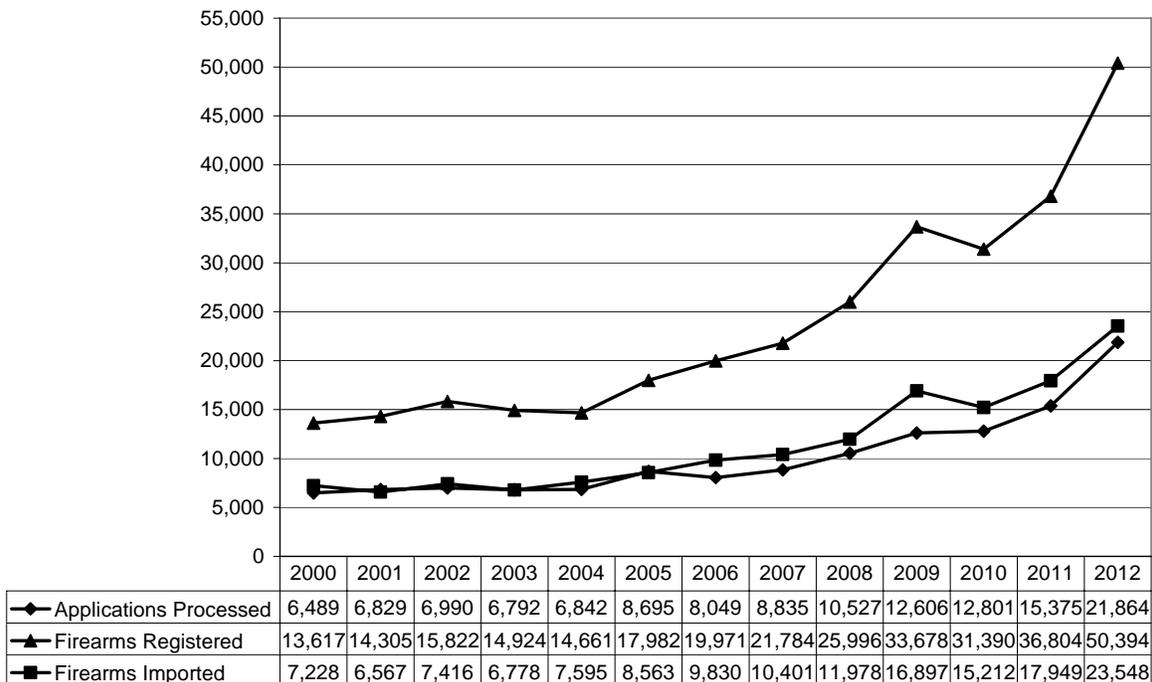
Figure 3 (next page) presents historical data on denial rates for the State of Hawaii and each of its four counties. Notable are the comparatively high denial rates reported by Hawaii County and Maui County throughout the entire 2000-2012 time period.

Figure 3: Firearm Permit Application Denial Rates, State of Hawaii and Counties, 2000-2012



Firearm registration activity increased dramatically over the course of the 13 years for which these data have been systematically compiled and reported (see Figure 4). From 2000 through 2012, the number of statewide permit applications processed annually climbed 336.9%, the number of firearms registered soared 370.1%, and the number of firearms imported surged 325.8%.

Figure 4: Firearm Registration Trends, State of Hawaii, 2000-2012



**Figure 5: Firearm Registration Trends,
City & County of Honolulu, 2000-2012**

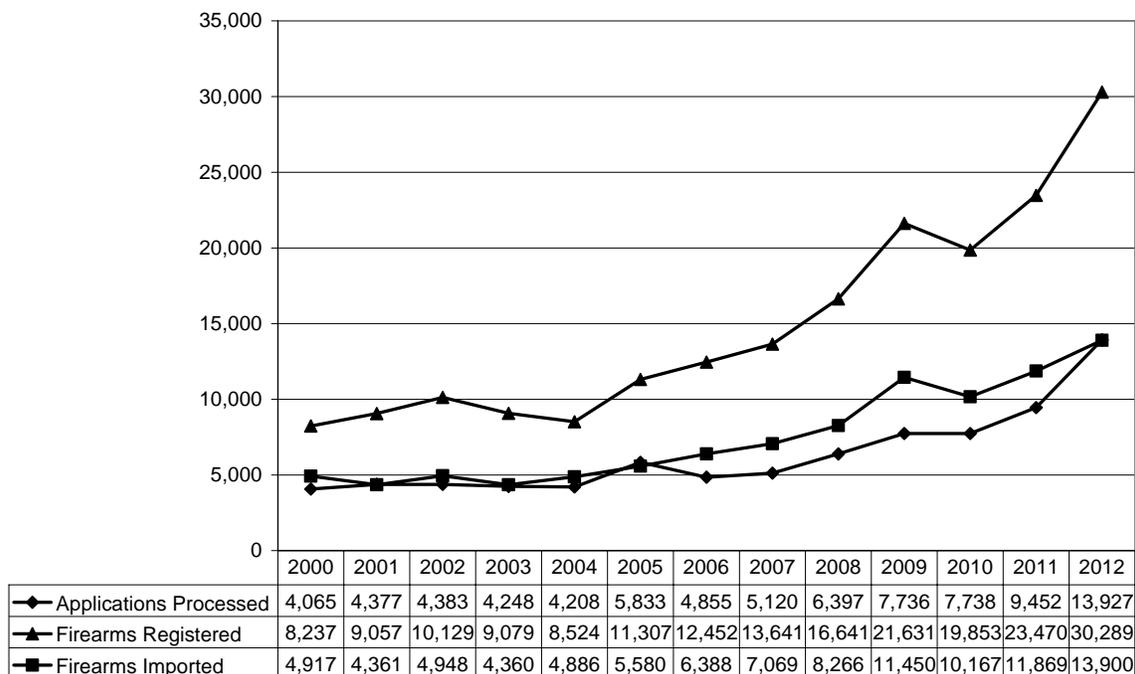
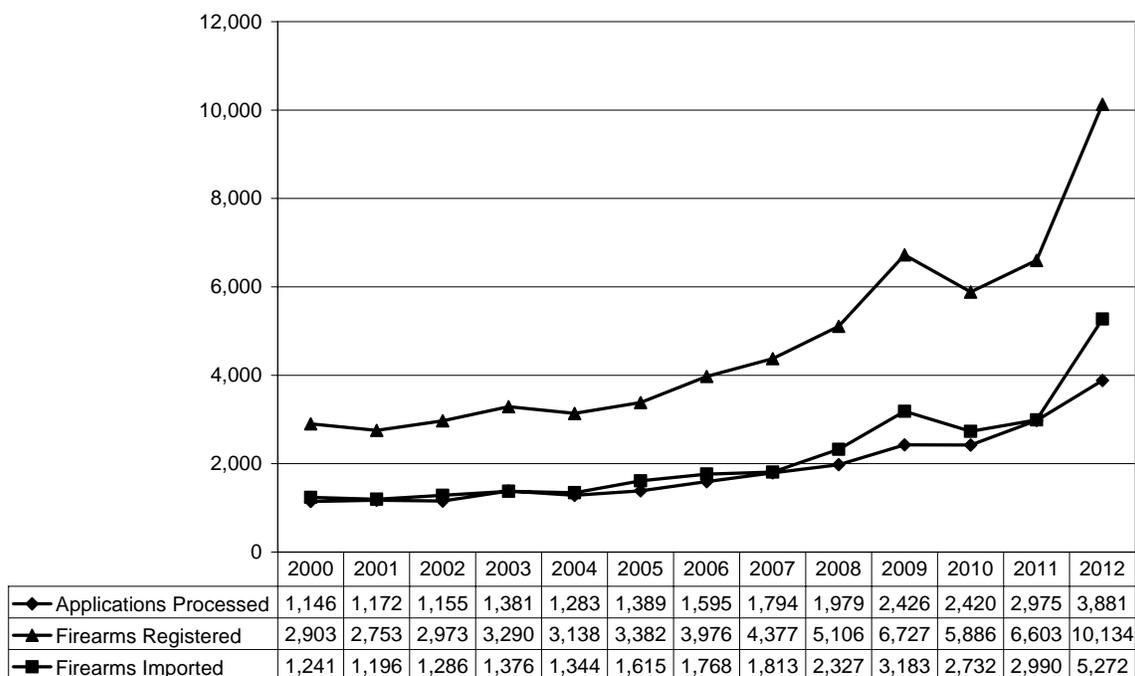


Figure 5 shows that, between 2000 and 2012 in the City & County of Honolulu, the annual tally of permits processed increased 342.6%, the number of firearms registered rose 367.7%, and the number of firearms imported climbed 282.7%.

**Figure 6: Firearm Registration Trends,
Hawaii County, 2000-2012**



As shown in Figure 6, the number of permits processed annually in Hawaii County from 2000 through 2012 climbed 338.7%, the number of firearms registered increased 349.1%, and the number of firearms imported surged 424.8%.

**Figure 7: Firearm Registration Trends,
Maui County, 2000-2012**

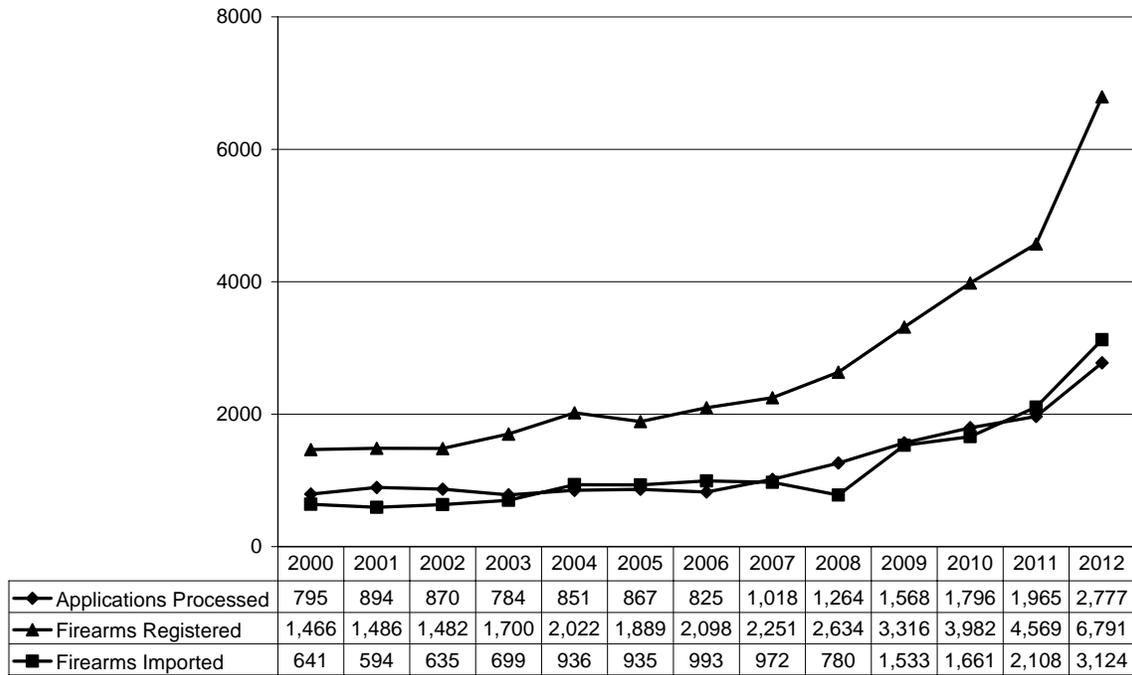
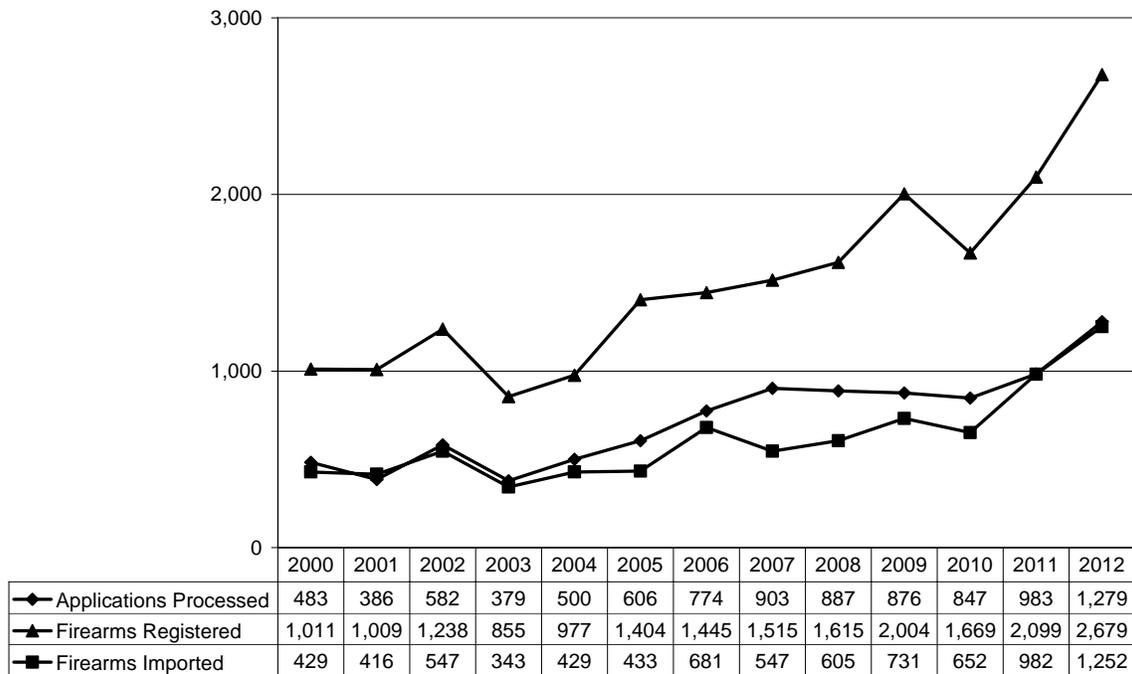


Figure 7 reveals that, between 2000 and 2012 in Maui County, the number of permits processed annually increased 349.3%, the number of firearms registered surged 457.0%, and the tally of firearms imported soared 487.4%.

**Figure 8: Firearm Registration Trends,
Kauai County, 2000-2012**



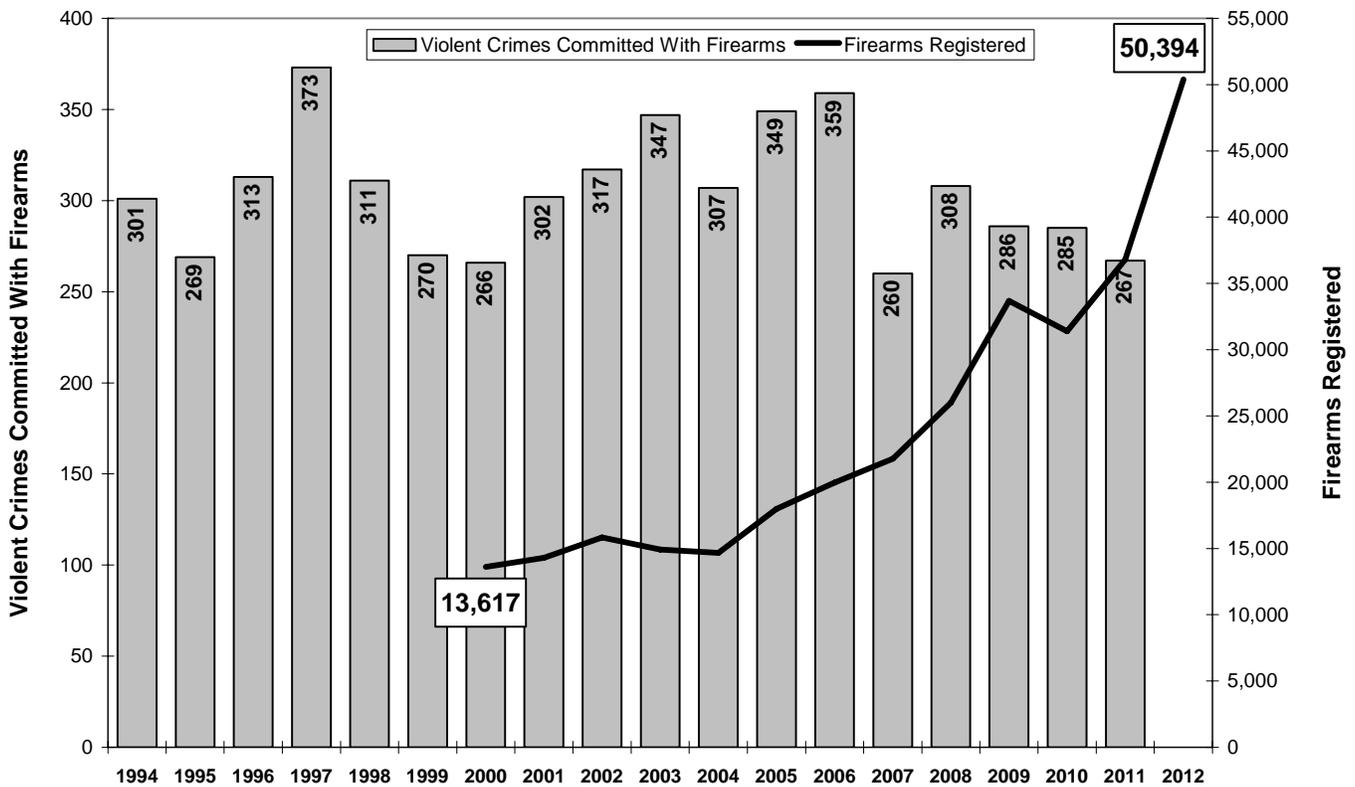
As shown in Figure 8, the number of permits processed annually in Kauai County from 2000 through 2012 increased 264.8%, the number of firearms registered rose 265.0%, and the number of firearms imported climbed 291.8%.

Firearm Registration Trends and Firearm-Related Violent Crime Trends

Given the tremendous increases in statewide firearm registration activity throughout the 2000-2012 period, and in particular the major increases reported for the post-2008 period, it is understandable that some readers might at first glance be alarmed, fearing that these increases have necessarily resulted in commensurate increases in firearm-related violent crime trends. However, as shown in the following figures, such has not been the case. Figure 9 (below) overlays the trend for firearm registrations atop the trend data for firearm-related violent crimes reported to the State's Uniform Crime Reporting Program (which is also directed by this Department). This analysis reveals that, while firearm registration activity has increased dramatically, the trend for firearm-related violent crimes has remained fairly stable within a narrow range, and decreased substantially during the same period (2008-2012*) during which registration activity increased the most sharply.

Figure 9: Violent Crimes Committed With Firearms and Firearms Registered, State of Hawaii, 1994-2012*

Source: Hawaii Department of the Attorney General



*** Notes:**

- Per Uniform Crime Reporting Program definition, violent crimes include murders, aggravated assaults, and robberies. Weapon data are not reported for the remaining violent crime category, forcible rape.
- CY 1994 was the first year that statewide crime weapon data were readily available in electronic format.
- Crime data for CY 2012 were not yet available at the time of this report's completion.
- Hawaii's firearm registration statistics reporting program was initiated in CY 2000.

Figures 9 and 10 (next page) demonstrate that, relative to other weapon types, the low prevalence of firearm use during the commission of violent crimes in Hawaii has remained stable for at least the past 18 years in Hawaii, with evidence of becoming even less prevalent since 2007.

Figure 10: Violent Crimes Committed With Firearms and Other Weapons, State of Hawaii, 1994-2011

Source: Hawaii Department of the Attorney General

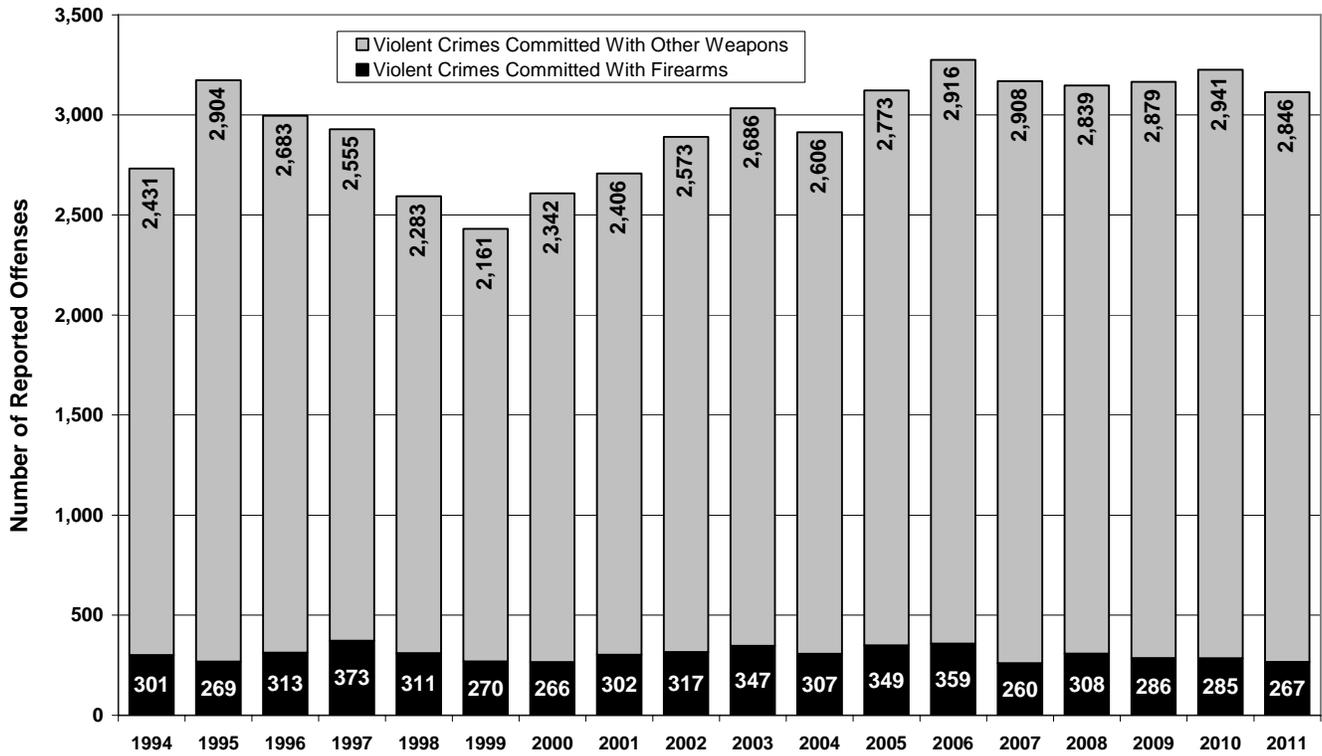
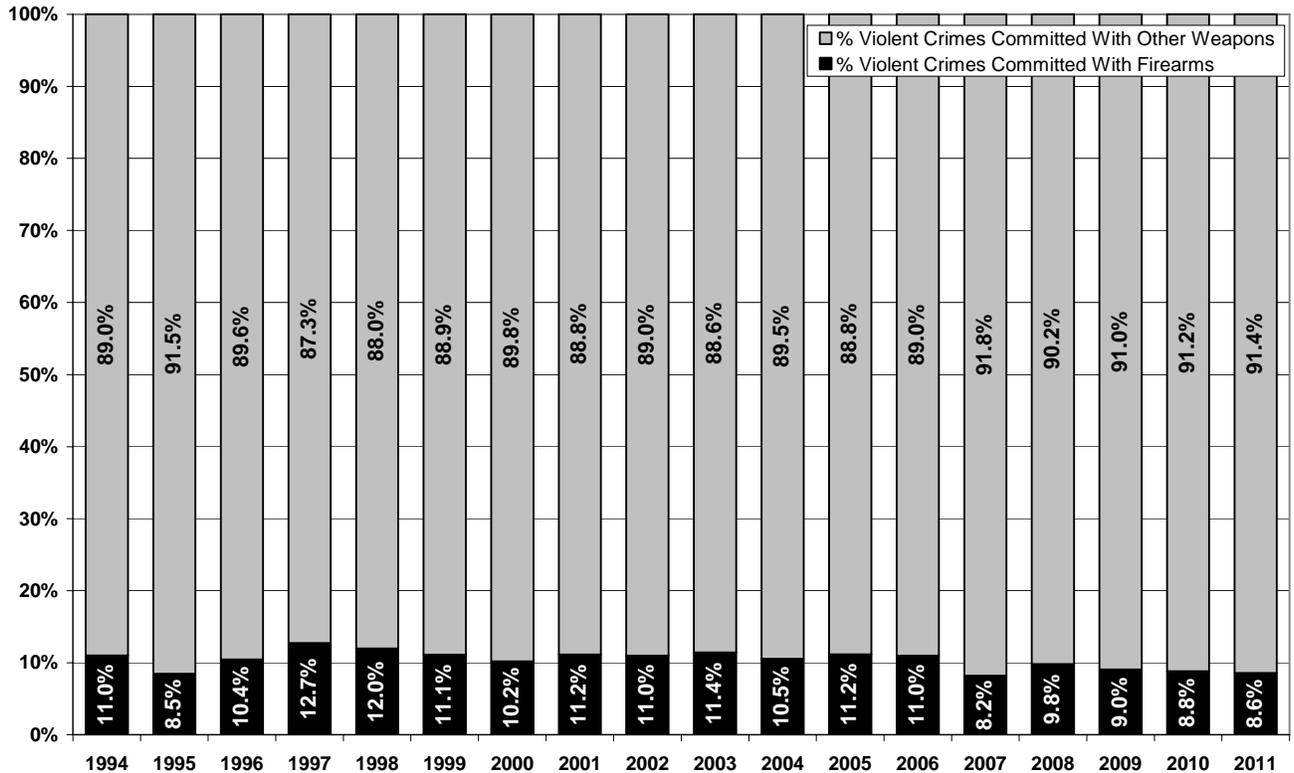


Figure 11: Proportions of Violent Crimes Committed With Firearms and Other Weapons, State of Hawaii, 1994-2011

Source: Hawaii Department of the Attorney General



Permit Application Denials

As noted earlier, 1.0% (227) of all permit applications in Hawaii during 2012 were denied for cause. Hawaii's 2012 denial rate is 44.5% (0.8 percentage points) below the 1.8% rate reported for all state and local agencies conducting background checks for firearm permits and transfers in 2010 (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2013).

The vast majority of denials in Hawaii during 2012 were for longarm (190, or 83.7%) rather than handgun (37, or 16.3%) permit applications. Following a trend since this annual report was first published, longarm permit applications in 2012 were denied at a rate that is several times greater than the denial rate for handgun permit applications (1.6% for longarm permit applications versus 0.4% for handgun permit applications).

Over half (127, or 55.9%) of the denials in 2012 were due to applicants' prior criminal convictions, while 11.0% (25) were due to pending charges. The remaining 33.1% (75) of denials in 2012 were not based on the criminal histories of the applicants.

It is a misdemeanor in the State of Hawaii to provide falsified information on firearm permit applications, unless the falsified information pertains to criminal or mental health histories, in which case it is a felony offense (Hawaii Revised Statutes section 134-17). In 2012, falsified criminal or mental health information or both were provided in 69.2% (157) of the 227 denial cases; falsified information pertaining to anything other than criminal or mental health histories was provided in 4.0% (9) of the cases; and no falsified information was provided in 26.9% (61) of the denial cases.

Table 2 presents broad categorical data on the reasons for denied permit applications.

Table 2: Reasons for Denied Firearm Permit Applications, State of Hawaii, 2012

	#	%*
"Other" Offense	112	49.3
Other (e.g., non-U.S. citizen)	33	14.5
Drug Offense	31	13.7
Mental Health Issues/Treatment**	31	13.7
Domestic Violence Offense	30	13.2
Restraining/Protective Order	11	4.8
Disqualifying Juvenile Offense	2	0.9

* Figures do not total 100% due to multiple denial reasons for some applicants.

** Denials for mental health issues or treatment can be satisfactorily resolved with a verified doctor's note stating that the applicant is no longer adversely affected. While an original denial cannot be appealed or overturned, a new application may be submitted and the appropriate permit will be issued. It is unknown how many applicants who are initially denied for mental health reasons successfully reapply for permits.

Table 3 (next page) provides a breakdown of information entered into a description field for each denial.

Table 3: Descriptions of Firearm Permit Application Denials, State of Hawaii, 2012

[N = 227 Denials]	#	%*
abuse of family/household member	19	8.4
abuse of family/household member + disorderly conduct	1	.4
abuse of family/household member x 2 + mental health treatment	1	.4
accidental death felony	1	.4
adjudicated mental defective	1	.4
admitted illegal drug use	1	.4
assault	29	12.8
assault + mental health treatment	3	1.3
assault + restraining order	1	.4
assault + substance abuse treatment	1	.4
assault + weapons offense + drug offense + restraining order	1	.4
assault x 2	4	1.8
assault x 2 + abuse of family/household member	1	.4
assault x 2 + abuse of family/household member + burglary	1	.4
assault x 3 + mental health treatment	1	.4
assault x 6 + mental health treatment	1	.4
bail jumping	1	.4
burglary + forgery	1	.4
child abuse + mental health treatment + no response from California re burglary arrest	1	.4
crime of violence (unspecified)	1	.4
dishonorable discharge from U.S. military	1	.4
disorderly conduct	7	3.1
disorderly conduct x 2	1	.4
disqualifying juvenile offense + substance abuse treatment	1	.4
disqualifying juvenile offense(s)	2	.9
drug offense	17	7.5
drug offense + medical marijuana patient	6	2.6
evading an officer	1	.4
felonies (unspecified)	1	.4
felony (unspecified)	8	3.5
felony convictions x 15	1	.4
harassment	15	6.6
identity theft	1	.4
medical clearance needed	7	3.1
medical marijuana patient	4	1.8
mental health treatment	10	4.4
motor vehicle theft	1	.4
motor vehicle theft + theft x 2	1	.4
murder + weapons offense	1	.4
mutual affray	1	.4
negligent homicide	1	.4
no response from California re assault + burglary arrests	1	.4
no response from California re sexual assault arrest	1	.4
no response from California re status of marijuana arrest	1	.4
no response from California re theft arrest	1	.4
no response from Honolulu PD re harassment arrest	1	.4
no response from Pennsylvania re explosives arrest	1	.4
no response from Utah re status of drug arrest	1	.4
not a U.S. citizen	4	1.8
refused to provide complete information on application	1	.4
resides with disqualified person	13	5.7
restraining order	7	3.1
restraining order + mental health treatment	1	.4
restraining order + no response from Florida re fraud arrest	1	.4
restraining order x 2	1	.4
robbery	1	.4
sexual assault	3	1.3
sexual assault x 2	2	.9
sexual offense (unspecified)	1	.4
substance abuse treatment	3	1.3
suicide attempt	1	.4
theft	6	2.6
violent crime (unspecified)	10	4.4
violent crime (unspecified) + theft + mental health treatment	1	.4
warrant	2	.9
weapons offense	3	1.3

* Due to rounding, figures may not total 100%.

Licenses to Carry Firearms

Hawaii's county police departments also process license applications for the open and/or concealed carry of firearms in public. Statewide in 2012, 168 employees of private security firms were issued carry licenses, and two were denied. Four private citizens applied for a concealed carry license in the City & County of Honolulu, and one applied in Maui County, and all five were denied at the discretion of the respective county police chief.

Confiscations

During 2012, the Maui Police Department's firearm registration section confiscated one legally prohibited firearm; a rifle with a defaced serial number.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with input and assistance from the county police departments' firearm registration personnel: **Debra Agena**, Records Clerk, Maui County Police Department; **Emily Fabro**, Firearms Clerk, Kauai County Police Department; the Firearm Registration Section, in particular **Suzy Yamasaki**, Records Clerk, City & County of Honolulu Police Department; and **Arlene Young**, Records Clerk, Hawaii County Police Department. As the volume of registration activity documented in this report demonstrates, these dedicated professionals work hard to serve their communities.

Reference

Bureau of Justice Statistics (February 2013). *Background checks for firearms transfers, 2010*. <<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/bcft10st.pdf>>. U.S. Department of Justice: Office of Justice Programs.

*This report is available in PDF format from the Crime
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